

"Screening Threshold" Method for PSD Modeling
North Carolina Air Quality Section

This method is best suited for situations where a PSD source has several sources outside its impact area, but within its screening area. The object is to find an effective means to minimize the number of such sources in a model, yet to include all sources which are likely to have a significant impact inside the impact area.

As a first-level screening technique, it is suggested to include those sources within the screening area when

$$Q \geq 20D \Rightarrow (\text{leave in})$$

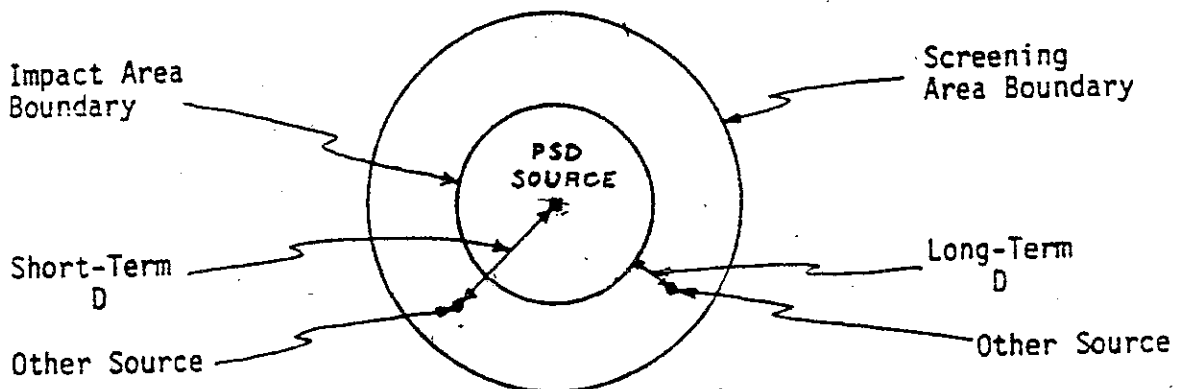
where Q is the maximum emission rate, in tons/year, of the source in the screening area; and D is a distance, in kilometers, from either:

- a. the source in the screening area to the nearest edge of the impact area, for long-term analyses.

or

- b. the source in the screening area to the PSD source defining the impact area, for short-term analyses.

The figure below illustrates the difference between the long-term D and the short-term D.



This method does not preclude the use of alternate screening techniques or of more sophisticated screening techniques given the approval of the review agency. Also, this method does not prevent the review agency from specifying additional sources of interest in the modeling analysis.

The justification for this "Screening Threshold Method" rests upon the following assumptions:

- a. effective stack height = 10 meters
- b. stability class D (neutral)
- c. 2.5 meter/second wind speed
- d. mixing height = 300 meters
- e. $Q = 20D$ = critical emission rate for a given pollutant
- f. one-hour concentrations derived from figure 3-5D in Turner's WADE or from PTDIS.
- g. 3-hour and 24-hour concentrations estimated using "Vol. 10R". Annual impacts are 1/7 of 24 hour impacts.

The results, for various distances, are shown in the table below:

D (km)	Q (T/yr)	1-hr C ₉ nc. (ug/m ³)	3-hr C ₉ nc. (ug/m ³)	24-hr C ₉ nc. (ug/m ³)	Annual C ₉ nc. (ug/m ³)
0.5	10	47	42	19	2.7
1.0	20	32	29	13	1.9
1.5	30	27	24	10	1.4
2.0	40	23	21	9	1.3
3	60	18	16	7	1.0
4	80	17	15	7	1.0
5	100	14	13	6	1
6	120	13	12	5	1
10	200	10	9	4	1
20	400	7	6	3	1
30	600	6	6	3	1
40	800	6	6	3	1
50	1000	7	6	3	1

The "Screening Threshold" method is conservative. Most sources either have effective stack heights greater than 10 meters, or they have several short stacks spread out over an industrial complex. Thus, actual modeled concentrations will most likely be lower than the "Screening Threshold" would indicate in the table above. One implication of the table is that all major sources within 5 km of the subject PSD source or within 5 km of the PSD source's impact area should be scrutinized before being exempted from the final emissions inventory.

The "Screening Threshold" method is in qualitative agreement with the suggestions on page I-C-18 of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Workshop Manual (1980). On that page, it is suggested that a 100 T/Y source 10 km outside the impact area may be excluded from the analysis. The above table would exclude a 100 T/Y source more than 5 km beyond the impact area for long-term analyses or more than 5 km away from the PSD source for short-term analyses; if the source is inside the impact area, it must be included regardless of the "Screening

Threshold". The PSD Workshop Manual also states on page I-C-18 that a 10,000 T/Y source 40 km outside the impact area would probably have to be included in the increment analysis. By the "Screening Threshold" method, the critical distance $D = Q/20 = 10,000/20 = 500$ km. Thus a 10,000 T/Y source within 500 km would always be included for short-term and long-term analyses if within the screening area.

This "Screening Threshold" method is quick, inexpensive to execute, conservative, and consistent with the intent of the PSD Workshop Manual.